

**State Superintendent's Advisory Council on  
Rural Schools, Libraries, and Communities**

**Monday, October 19, 2015**

**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

***Stratford High School-Band Room***

***522 N Third Ave.***

***Stratford, WI 54484***

**Minutes**

The meeting will be in the high school band room (there will be signage in the building) and will be set up in a U-Shape for the council members with audience style seating for all other attendees and guests. There will be a registration area with nametags and name tents and meeting materials. A projector and screen will be available for presenters.

**AGENDA**

**8:30 a.m. Registration Set-up/Continental Breakfast**

Jeff will set up the registration area with name tags, table tents, and folders. Coffee and pastries will be available.

**8:55 a.m.** Jeff reminded folks to get a cup of coffee and get ready to start.

**9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions**

Jeff opened the meeting and introduces the district administrator.

**Scott Winch, District Administrator, Stratford School District**

Superintendent Winch opens by welcoming the group to the Stratford community and introduces school staff and guests, including any school board members who may be present and any others of note who are in attendance.

Thank you Superintendent (Scott) Winch and the Stratford staff and students

**Some of the district's highlights this year are:**

- Stratford believes for a small rural district we have a good diversity of course offerings at the high school - online courses, distance learning, NTC partnerships, UW Credit in our building.
- Our staff does a great job of differentiating instruction to allow all of our learners a chance to grow and be successful.
- Youth Apprenticeship is a very strong program right now.
- The District has many strong partnerships, most importantly is the one we have with our community. Six years ago we passed a referendum with a 73% yes vote. Several donations from the community have made other additions to our facilities a reality.
- Michael Gessinger was selected for the national USDA Camp at Iowa State. This was a two week program where students were immersed in hands-on learning through various agricultural related topics from biosecurity to animal husbandry to wildlife and natural resource management.
- The Agricultural Department formed a committee to plan and implement a three tier Farm to School plan to offer educational and hands on opportunities for students and community members to grow and process their own nutritious food. The Ag Department has partnered with the school lunch program, Marathon Co. Health Department, and the Village of Stratford to bring this plan to fruition. The three levels include building raised beds, installing a high tunnel for lunch line production, and building community gardens.
- Michael Gessinger wrote a National Food for All Grant that was added to other grant funding secured so our district could finalize our plan. This plan has impacted the elementary

through high school students, as well as our local food pantry, and our community.

### **Close the welcome and introduction**

- We have an active agenda today and I'm looking forward to the discussions surrounding the budget, CTE, licensing, and the future direction of this group.
- This council has been an important resource for me. As we go about our work at the department the input I receive from you has provided a great basis for discussion.

### **9:15 a.m. Introduction of State Superintendent's Advisory Council Members**

*Tony Evers, PhD, State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction*

With so many new council members I thought it would be good for each of you to introduce yourselves and share one reason you want to be part of this council.

Why do you want to be part of this council?

- Help small rural schools
- Teacher shortage
- Advocate for kids in rural schools
- Rural communities and libraries
- Promote the positive things in rural schools
- Come up with PLC's for single department staff to share
- Art education in rural schools
- Providing awareness of rural tribal work
- Literacy
- Keeping rural WI businesses vibrant
- Rural broadband
- Every student should have a chance to take any course (more options)
- Declining enrollment
- Figuring out the work ethic of students
- The power of rural education
- Rural and the UW

### **10:00 a.m. The 2015-17 Biennial Budget Follow-up**

*Jennifer Kammerud, Policy Initiatives Advisor, Department of Public Instruction*

- Licensure <http://tepd.dpi.wi.gov/licensing/pathways-to-licensure>
  - New licenses- reciprocity, technical education
  - Review existing pathways
- Civics Assessment Requirement
- *Civics Assessment Requirement for High School Graduation*
- Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, districts, charter operators, and private choice schools may not grant a high school diploma until the student successfully completes a civics test. A student may re-take the exam until he/she passes. The exam must consist of 100 questions, 60 of which must be answered correctly to pass. (Students with an IEP must complete the exam to receive a diploma, but are not required to meet the benchmark of 60 correct answers.) The questions must be identical to those on the U.S. citizenship test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. This assessment falls under the jurisdiction of districts, charter operators, and choice schools and will not be administered by DPI. As such, districts and schools will be responsible for the format and date of the exam
- Whole grade sharing
  - Overview and implementation dates
- Course options  
[http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/cte/pdf/Course%20Options%20Changes%202015%20Final%20\(2\).pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/cte/pdf/Course%20Options%20Changes%202015%20Final%20(2).pdf)

### **10:20 a.m. Academic and Career Plans**

*Jennifer Kammerud, Policy Initiatives Advisor, Department of Public Instruction*

Jennifer provided information on the new Academic and Career planning project being implemented at DPI. <http://dpi.wi.gov/acp>

### **10:30a.m. Summer School, Year-Round Education, and Interim Sessions**

*Jennifer Kammerud, Policy Initiatives Advisor, Department of Public Instruction*

- This topic was postponed to the next meeting

## **11:15 a.m. Break**

## **11:25 a.m. Discussion on Priorities of the Council**

### Background on the Council:

- Council has been in existence since 2004, many of our members have been on this council since that time.
- The council provides information and recommendations to the State Superintendent on rural issues related to our public schools and libraries to ensure that every student graduates ready to succeed in postsecondary education or the workforce and in support of the important role schools and libraries play in supporting economic development and thriving communities.
- The council serves as a place to share research, best practices, and opportunities related to enhancing rural schools and libraries.

### Focus of Council Work (Brainstorm)

1. What topics should the council focus on?
  - a. Attracting and retaining teachers-rural schools losing staff to larger districts and the work force
  - b. Broadband connectivity to homes/communities for students who do not have access
  - c. Building stronger partnerships with businesses that can assist in the above areas (cell companies, cable, phone, etc.)
  - d. Develop a site where good ideas for rural schools can be shared
  - e. Create subgroups for council members to be able to focus on specific issues
  - f. A focus on libraries
  - g. Best practices of districts working with other parties to not pay for resources twice
  - h. Define cultural responsiveness curriculum in districts
  - i. State assessments
  - j. Mental health
  - k. Year round school
  - l. Equitable resources for rural schools
  - m. Increase of ESL students

**11:45 a.m. Lunch**

**12:15 p.m. Showcase: Stratford High School (Band & Chorus presentation)**

*John Rickinger, **Band Director***

*Elizabeth Dahlby, Choral Director*

**12:45 p.m. Stratford High School: Presentation and Tour**

**1:30 p.m. Vouchers, Charters, and Rural Schools**

*Bob Soldner, School Management Services, Department of Public Instruction*

Bob gave an overview (via phone) of the major changes from the budget and how they may affect schools and rural schools and answered questions.

**2:00 p.m. Adjourn**